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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Mark H. SHIPTON et al.

Group Art Unit: 1762

Application No.: 10/689,100

Filed: October 21, 2003

Docket No.: 117396

For: METHOD OF FORMING A DIFFUSION BARRIER ON A TITANIUM ALLOY  
SUBSTRATE

**STATUS INQUIRY LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please telephone our firm's Patent Application Filing Department at 703-836-6400 with the status of the above-identified patent application, including an indication as to when the next communication can be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 21, 2005

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